United Nations S/2017/949

Security Council

Distr.: General
13 November 2017

Original: English

Letter dated 13 November 2017 from the Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to enclose herewith a letter from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran, M. Javad Zarif, regarding the extremely appalling situation in Yemen and the urgent need to pursue the already proposed four-point plan with a view to reaching a political solution to this tragic crisis (see annex).

I would highly appreciate it if you could have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Gholamali **Khoshroo**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 13 November 2017 from the Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I would like to draw your urgent attention to the extremely appalling situation in Yemen, caused by aggression, indiscriminate targeting of civilians and a blockade, imposing intolerable suffering on the Yemeni people and resulting in an unprecedented famine and the outbreak and spread of cholera in that country.

The war in Yemen, now in its third year, continues to worsen, with no end in sight. The circumstances are pugnaciously swirling into a pandemonium of mass destruction and calamitous human suffering, while the war of aggression itself has become a quagmire for its initiators. Over 30 months of aggression against an already impoverished Yemen has claimed thousands of lives of civilians, in particular women and children, and brought about the destruction of Yemen's civilian infrastructure, including hospitals, schools, roads, food factories and power plants, thus depriving civilians of their most basic necessities. The blocking of humanitarian access to an already famine-stricken Yemen and the decision to "close all Yemeni air, sea and land ports" have caused further deterioration of the humanitarian nightmare in Yemen, which, as described recently by United Nations officials, could lead to "the largest famine the world has seen for many decades".

International accountability for committing war crimes and violating international humanitarian law falls upon the perpetrators, who have sought and continue to seek a military solution for this crisis, notwithstanding their attempts to shift the blame and distract attention from their war of aggression. However, after more than two and a half years of blind attacks, the war's initiators should have realized by now that "there is no military solution for Yemen".

It is the duty of the international community to become more responsibly and effectively engaged in ending the senseless war and establishing a ceasefire, ensuring the delivery of humanitarian assistance and eventually restoring permanent peace in this country through dialogue and national reconciliation without preconditions. The Islamic Republic of Iran has emphasized, from the beginning of this crisis, that the only way to restore peace and stability is to allow all Yemeni parties to establish, without any foreign interference, their own inclusive national unity government.

I believe that it is long overdue to consider and implement the four-point plan that I proposed in my letter of 17 April 2015, addressed to your predecessor and contained in document S/2015/263, right after the Saudi-led coalition initiated war on Yemen. Today, the same plan, which includes the following, remains applicable and indeed imperative in order to end this nightmare:

1. Ceasefire and an immediate end to all military operations.
2. Unimpeded urgent humanitarian and medical assistance to the people of Yemen.
3. Resumption of Yemeni-led and Yemeni-owned national dialogue, with the participation of the representatives of all political parties and social groups.
4. Establishment of an inclusive national unity government.

I am confident that you will urgently use your good offices to help make the necessary arrangements for conducting consultations with all concerned parties and expeditiously initiate a genuine dialogue to explore a political solution to this tragic crisis. In advancing this objective, the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran

stands ready to continue to assist you and engage with you and all other relevant stakeholders in a meaningful dialogue so as to pursue and operationalize this peace plan. We also express our readiness to work with the United Nations in order to promptly dispatch the necessary humanitarian and medical assistance to the people in need in Yemen.

(*Signed*) M. Javad **Zarif**